

~~SECRET~~

Commission No. 448

4 March 1964

Summary of Findings in Regard to Allegations
by Mohammed REGGAB Relative to Marina Nikolevna OSWALD

1. On 26 November 1963, four days after the assassination of President John Kennedy, Mohammed REGGAB, a Moroccan student in West Berlin, approached an American organization in that city, the Satellite Refugee Screening Center, with the statement that he could supply information on Marina Nikolevna OSWALD. REGGAB was thereupon interrogated by representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. military intelligence in West Berlin.

2. Mohammed REGGAB was born on 3 January 1938 in Safi, Morocco. During the period September 1960 - April 1962, he studied at the Moscow Institute of Cinematography. At the time he volunteered information on Mrs. OSWALD, REGGAB resided at Nuernbergerstrasse 19, West Berlin, having come there as a student in April 1963. At that time he had been debriefed on his Soviet experience by the Satellite Refugee Screening Center.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

3. According to REGGAB, he had recognized Mrs. OSWALD from the photograph and mention of her first name, Marina, that had appeared in the Berliner Zeitung of 25 November. REGGAB stated that he knew the subject of this photograph as Marina Nikolaeva. He was not certain whether the name "Nikolaeva" was her patronymic or surname. She had lived with her mother in Moscow, in an area near the Agricultural Exposition. Her father was dead; Marina, according to REGGAB, was employed as a punch card operator by a business machine firm. She was of working class origin. REGGAB had never known her home address. He estimated that her present age would be about twenty-four.

4. The two young people had met during January 1961, at a Saturday night dance sponsored by the Soviet student organization for foreign students at the Patrice Lumumba University. Marina was able to attend these dances since working girls were brought in because of a shortage of dancing partners. The couple saw each other thereafter three or four times a week until May 1961, when REGGAB dropped Marina in order to date her friend, one Loussa BOURLAKOVA.

5. REGGAB claimed that during his first evening with Marina he had made it clear that he was no Communist. Within two weeks of their meeting Marina, in turn, had spoken openly of her opposition

SECRET
-2-

to the regime and had declared her principal ambition to be married to a foreigner so as to leave the USSR.

6. REGGAB clearly had no intention of marrying Marina. As he told the story, he had a fiancée in Morocco. He returned to Morocco for a vacation from June to September 1961. When he came back to Moscow, BOURLAKOVA told him that she had not seen Marina for a month. REGGAB stated that he had never heard of Lee Harvey OSWALD.

7. To the best of REGGAB's judgment, Marina was genuinely opposed to the regime and was not a member of Komsomol. He knew that other girls, especially members of the Komsomol, were ordered to report on foreign students, voicing anti-regime sentiments when necessary to ingratiate themselves. However, REGGAB said that he could never detect such a mission in Marina's case.

8. REGGAB then stated that he had a photograph of Marina with a letter from her, dated June or July 1961, in his personal effects in Casablanca. According to REGGAB, Marina wrote that she had heard through BOURLAKOVA that he was in Morocco on vacation, declared her love for him, and asked that he bring her a gift from Morocco. Official assistance would be needed, REGGAB said, if he were to attempt to find the letter and photograph among his personal effects that were scattered in various places in Casablanca.

SECRET

9. REGGAB characterized Marina as timid, romantic in disposition, with little personality and a sad face. He stated that she submitted to "his every wish".

10. The information supplied by REGGAB was transmitted to the White House, the Department of State and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on 26 November 1963. CIA's Berlin Station was thereupon instructed to check out the REGGAB lead and attempt to obtain the letter and photograph of Marina that were allegedly in his personal effects in Casablanca. As a first move to check REGGAB's account, the Berlin Station was asked to ascertain how much of Marina OSWALD's background had been in the public domain when REGGAB told his story.

11. Investigation in Berlin revealed that no more than Marina OSWALD's first name and photograph were available to the Berlin press when REGGAB had first approached the Satellite Refugee Screening Center. Data on Mrs. OSWALD's former occupation and the approximate date of her marriage, which it was believed might not be consistent with REGGAB's story, had become available only after his story had been told. The CIA Station in Berlin reported in late December that REGGAB had agreed to write to his brother-in-law in Rabat, asking him to attempt to locate the letter and photograph.

12. By early January 1964, Mrs. Marina OSWALD had denied

SECRET



SECRET

ever knowing REGGAB. Nevertheless, it was believed that REGGAB's account of knowing her had to be checked out. CIA's Rabat Station was thereupon informed of the REGGAB case and told that we were willing to pay REGGAB's expenses to fly to Morocco to get the letter and photograph. At the same time, it was realized that REGGAB, for reasons of his own, might be stalling. The CIA Berlin Station was requested to ask REGGAB to write another letter to his brother-in-law which CIA would pouch to Rabat for mailing there. Any letter received in Berlin by REGGAB was to be subjected to careful technical examination by CIA personnel.

13. Information supplied by the CIA Station in Casablanca revealed that REGGAB while a student in Moscow during 1960-1962 had attended three meetings of a Moroccan Communist Party Cell. Communist students had thereupon warned that REGGAB was an informant for the Moroccan Embassy. The evidence for this conclusion consisted of the fact that REGGAB had been seen in conference with the Moroccan Ambassador and then had made "several" trips back to Morocco during the school year, allegedly at his own expense.

14. By mid-January 1964, no reply had been received from REGGAB's brother-in-law. Since information by then available in the press indicated that Mrs. OSWALD had never lived in Moscow and had married OSWALD in May 1961, the CIA Berlin Station suggested the possibility that REGGAB had fabricated his story, perhaps for

SECRET

SECRET

financial ends. It recommended further interrogation and a polygraph examination.

15. On 1 February 1964, REGGAB underwent a polygraph examination. An analysis of the results by a qualified polygraph examiner indicated strongly that REGGAB's story alleging close relations with Mrs. OSWALD was a fabrication. There were additional strong indications that REGGAB had never written to his brother-in-law to search for the letter and photograph. In the opinion of the polygraph examiner, REGGAB knew his Moscow friend was not Mrs. OSWALD, but had exaggerated certain similarities into a story. The motive for this fabrication remains unclear, but may have resulted from need for money or even sheer boredom.

16. The polygraph examination also revealed that REGGAB's relations with his father-in-law were so bad that if paid to go to Casablanca to look for documents he would probably be afraid to go to the father-in-law's house where they were allegedly stored.

17. To guard against all possibilities, however, CIA authorities in Berlin instructed REGGAB to write again to his brother-in-law, asking that all letters in Russian and pictures of foreign young girls in his effects be sent to him. REGGAB stated that he was returning to Morocco on 12 February for a visit, and would come back to Berlin by 1 March. He declared that he would send the letter

SECRET

SECRET

and photograph to a Berlin address given him by the CIA Berlin Station. REGGAB has left Berlin, but up to this date no communication from him has been received.

18. On 21 February, a representative of the Secret Service assigned to Paris made contact with the CIA Berlin Station. He had instructions from his headquarters to establish contact with REGGAB and obtain from him a notarized statement authorizing a pick-up of the alleged letter and photograph in Casablanca. The Secret Service representative was not aware that CIA was involved in the case, and that REGGAB had been polygraphed and had thereafter returned to Morocco. This representative was briefed on developments and given biographical data on REGGAB. He thereupon decided to await instructions from his headquarters before taking further action.

19. Examination of the evidence now available at CIA Headquarters and in CIA field stations leads to the judgment that REGGAB's story of his acquaintance with Mrs. Marina OSWALD is a fabrication.

SECRET

SECRET

WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE SOURCES AND
METHODS INVOLVED

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Commission No. 674

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

SUBJECT : Information disseminated to the Secret Service but not yet made available to the President's Commission

1. Reference is made to paragraph two of your memorandum, dated 12 February 1964, to the Director of Central Intelligence requesting that information previously supplied to the Secret Service be furnished to the President's Commission.

2. On 22 and 23 November, immediately following the assassination of President Kennedy, three cabled reports were received from the CIA station in Mexico City relative to photographs of an unidentified man who visited the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in that city during October and November 1963, and data on departures by air for the United States of three persons who, it was believed, might be identical with Lee Harvey OSWALD. On 23 November, a CIA liaison officer, acting on instruction, cabled three reports based on these cables to Mr. Robert Bouck, Protective Research Staff, the Secret Service, Executive Office Building. Paraphrases of the three unnumbered reports thus delivered to the Secret Service are attached to this memorandum.

3. The subject of the photographs mentioned in these reports is not Lee Harvey OSWALD.

SECRET

WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE SOURCES AND
METHODS INVOLVED

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification